

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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INFO USMISSION NATO

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CINCUSAFE

16TH AF, TORREJON/CV

UNCLAS MADRID 1214

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP, US, PFOR, OREP (PELL, CLAIBORNE)

SUBJ: TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION--SENATOR PELL'S  
PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY SENATOR PELL IN MADRID BEFORE  
HIS DEPARTURE FRIDAY, FEB 13, RECIEVED GOOD SPANISH PRESS  
COVERAGE, WITH EMPHASIS ON PELL'S STATEMENTS THAT HE WAS  
FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE MOVEMENT OF SPAIN TOWARD DEMOCRACY  
AND THAT HE EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT RETIFICATION  
OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MAJOR SPANISH NEWSPAPERS ALL GAVE PROMINENT ATTENTION  
TO SENATOR PELL'S PRESS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING FRONT-  
PAGE TREATMENT IN MADRID'S LEADING DAILY, "ABC." ALL REPORTS  
WERE ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR IN TONE.

2. PELL WAS QUOTED (IN SPANISH) AS STATING: "I CAME WITH  
SKEPTICISM, GIVEN MY POSITION AS A LIBERAL, BUT I BELIEVE I  
WILL FAVOR RATIFICATION, SINCE I BELIEVE SPAIN IS MOVING TOWARD  
DEMOCRACY." HE WAS FURTHER QUOTED AS STATING: "I MUST  
MUST SAY THAT THINGS HAVE CHANGED VISIBLY AND I AM IMPRESSED,  
FOLLOWING MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE KING AND MESSRS. ARIAS,  
FRAGA, AND AREILZA, BU THE EFFORT THEY ARE MAKING TO FOLLOW  
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THE PATH TOWARD DEMOCRACY...I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THE

APPROPRIATE FORMULA IS THAT MENTIONED TO ME BY MR. FRAGA TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EVOLUTION OF SPAIN GOES ON WITHOUT HURRY BUT ALSO WITHOUT PAUSE."

3. THESE REPORTS ALSO HAVE THE SENATOR COMMENTING THAT RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY COULD HELP FAVOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN SPAIN; THAT HE WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT SOME IN SPAIN WANTED TO GO FASTER AND SOME SLOWER, BUT THAT THE IMPORTANT THING SEEMED TO BE CONTINUOUS CHANGE RATHER THAN RAPID CHANGE. TOLD THAT A SPANISH POLL INDICATED THAT THE SPANISH BELIEVE THE TREATY TO BE MORE TO THE BENEFIT OF THE UNITED STATES THAN SPAIN, HE REPLIED THAT MANY AMERICANS BELIEVE THE CONTRARY AND THAT, COMPARING THESE TWO SETS OF OPINIONS, HE WAS LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE TREATY WAS PROBABLY RATHER BALANCED.

4. HE EXPECTED THE TREATY WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE EARLY THIS WEEK AND THAT THE SENATE'S DECISION WOULD BE MADE IN A PERIOD OF TWO TO FOUR MONTHS. RATIFICATION WOULD DEPEND ON THE SENATE'S PERCEPTION OF PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN SPAIN.

5. THESE REPORTS ALSO CARRY PELL'S STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE RELATIVELY LOW NUMBER OF PERSONS IN SPAIN'S JAILS AND THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE SPANISH GOVT THAT ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD BE RELEASED SOMETIME TOWARD JUNE EXCEPT FOR TERRORISTS ACCUSED OF CRIMINAL ACTS.

6. IN SUM, THE SENATOR WAS REPORTED TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT HE WAS LEAVING SPAIN WITH A GOOD IMPRESSION, ALTHOUGH A SOMEWHAT INCOMPLETE ONE, CONSIDERING THE SHORTNESS OF HIS VISIT. STABLER

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